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Report of the Joint Task Force on Self-Directed Mental Health Care

November 23, 2005

Kristen Cox
Secretary
Maryland Department of Disabilities
217 East Redwood Street, Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202

Brian Hepburn, M.D.
Executive Director
Mental Hygiene Administration
The Dix Building
55 Wade Avenue
Catonsville, MD 21218

Dear Secretary Cox and Dr. Hepburn:

We are pleased to present you with the final report of our Task Force. Under your leadership, the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) and the Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) appointed a seventeen member, joint **Task Force on Self-Directed Mental Health Care** on how best to create a model of care for mental health consumers that would allow maximum input from individuals. The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations to initiate a pilot project establishing self-directed approaches for consumers to obtain mental health and other support services, consistent with recommendations set forth in the President Bush's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

Self-Directed Care for mental health consumers is a relatively new development. Florida and Oregon are two of the leaders in this area and both states were explored as possible models for Maryland to consider. However, self-directed care for people with physical disabilities and for people with developmental disabilities are in more advance stages of implementation around the country and in Maryland. We are hopeful that the work of this Task Force will create the momentum for this new model for consumers of mental